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Letter dated 30 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw the Security Council's attention to the latest developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government regrets to inform you that the Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC) and the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD-Goma) decided on 30 January 2002 to create a "Congolese mixed force", which would be based in the town of Kalemie, and to deploy immediately a joint battalion made up of approximately 800 men.

My Government denounces this flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 1376 (2001), of 9 November 2001, principally paragraph 11, in which the Council notes with concern the joint communiqué issued on 4 November 2001 by the Secretaries-General of the Movement for the Liberation of the Congo and the Congolese Rally for Democracy concerning the deployment of a joint special force in Kindu, and stresses that appropriate conditions will be necessary to allow the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to fulfil its role in Kindu and to ensure that discussions on the voluntary disarmament and demobilization of concerned armed groups take place in a neutral environment.

My Government insists that the obligation to create a neutral environment on the part of the aggressor countries and their Congolese followers applies not only to the town of Kindu but also to all Congolese towns, including Kalemie, where disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration operations could be carried out and where MONUC could also be induced to deploy.

The choice concerning the town of Kalemie is not an innocent one. It reveals the scope of the deployment by the Rwandese Patriotic Army, whose troops are moving towards the south in the direction, in particular, of Moba and Muliro, along Lake Tanganyika and towards other positions in the north of Katanga province.

Furthermore, with regard to resolution 1304 (2000), of 16 June 2000, in which the Council demanded the speedy and unconditional demilitarization of the city of Kisangani and its environs, my Government points out the resumption of fighting in this area that led to the taking of the town of Bafwasende by MLC troops.

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Lastly, my Government draws the Council's attention to the climate of terror and insecurity artificially created by the Ugandan regular army (UPDF) in northern Orientale province. Since last Monday, 28 January 2002, at least 60 persons have been reported disappeared after a convoy of seven vehicles travelling near Bunia was ambushed.

In view of the foregoing, my Government requests the Security Council, the principal body for the maintenance of international peace and security, to take all measures that it would deem appropriate in accordance with its responsibilities and obligations under the Charter of the United Nations in order to halt the actions and attempts by the aggressor countries and their followers aimed at derailing the entire peace process begun in Lusaka.

My Government requests that you have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative